

Colorado Nutrient Criteria - Duration and Frequency

WQS:

Lakes: summer (July 1-September 30) average (ug/L) in the mixed layer of lakes (median of multiple depths), allowable exceedance frequency 1-in-5 years.

Rivers/Streams: annual median (ug/L), allowable exceedance frequency 1-in-5 years.

Permits:

The low flow policy (in WQS rule) includes this regarding low flows for river/stream discharges:

- (c) Total phosphorus and total nitrogen limitations: the annual median of the daily average flows with a 1 in 5 year recurrence interval.

Assessment:

The assessment method hasn't yet been developed and finalized, but EPA is expecting that Colorado will use an assessment method for nutrients that is consistent with the magnitude, duration and frequency of the WQS (i.e., calculate summer averages (lakes) and annual averages (streams) and one exceedance is allowable over each 5 year period).